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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

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Approved For Release 2001/11/23 : CIA-RDP82-00457R001700770011-

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COUNTRY Lebanon

DATE DISTR. 13 August 1948

SUBJECT Efforts of Lebanese Christians to Secure
Protection by Great Powers

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. Lebanese Christians, sharing the point of view of the Phalange and the National Bloc, are extremely worried about the growth of Moslem influence, the increasing anti-Christian feeling among Moslems, and a more aggressive attitude on the part of the Syrian Government toward Christians. Their efforts to have the Lebanese emigrants abroad (the overwhelming majority of whom are Christian) registered as citizens having failed, the Christians see that they are soon doomed, by their losses from emigration and their relatively small birth rate, to become a minority in Lebanon.

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Comment. The Christians in the Chamber of Deputies have refused to allow a census unless Lebanese who are abroad are included. It is possible that a census would show that the Christians already form a minority.)

2. To prevent further deterioration of their situation, Lebanese Christians are turning increasingly to the Great Powers, and approaches are being made to the British, the French, and the Americans to obtain guarantees of protection. Emil Edde's trip to France and England is connected with these approaches.

3. On 20 August a joint manifesto will be issued by the National Bloc and the Phalange, setting forth their point of view and asking that Lebanon be guaranteed by the Great Powers as a neutral state "like Switzerland," to be a homeland for the minorities of the Middle East.

This document is hereby regraded to
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